

probably been attended in her own home by a "diah," who has not recognized the difficulty of the case until the patient has been several days in labor and is in danger of death.

There is very little demand for Egyptian women as nurses among Egyptians.

The hakeema as a midwife has a recognized position, and so has the "diah." The great majority of women in Egypt are still veiled, and they have no authority in any household but their own. They are, therefore, simply useless as nurses. The German hospitals, of which there are two in Egypt, one in Cairo and one in Alexandria, are nursed by German deaconesses trained at Kaiserswerth. The French hospitals, three in number, one at Cairo, one at Suez, and one at Alexandria, are nursed by the sisters of St. Vincent de Paul.

The British hospital at Port Said has an English superintendent, who has four fully trained nurses under her, three for the hospital and one for private cases. They are all engaged from England for three years.

The government hospital at Port Said is nursed by sisters of the Bon Pasteur order.

The Greek hospital in Alexandria also employs English sisters.

## II.

### ORGANIZATIONS OF CERTIFICATED NURSES.

Of these there are three in Cairo:

The English hospital and Victoria Nursing Home, the staff of which consists of a matron and seven nurses, all English. The nurses are employed in the hospital and for outside work.

The English Nursing Home, which has a superintendent and four nurses.

The Marianne Hughes Nursing Fund, which employs two nurses. The nurses employed by it are engaged by the matron of Kasr el Aini Hospital and are under her supervision. They nurse for any doctor in Cairo, and may be sent to other parts of Egypt by special permission from the committee of the fund. They are engaged for six or eighteen months, and when not nursing private patients they are employed in the government hospital.

In Alexandria the Victoria Home, which is a home for governesses and a registry office for servants, keeps three nurses, whom it sends out to cases as they are required.

J. G. WATKINS.

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## LETTERS

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### FROM NEW ZEALAND

THE following most interesting letter has just been received from Mrs. O'Neill, who is a nurse, councillor of the International Council of Nurses, and inspector of hospitals in New Zealand:

"HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS DEPARTMENT,

"WELLINGTON, N. Z., August 14, 1901.

"MY DEAR MISS DOCK: I am sending you our annual Hospitals and Asylums Department reports, also a copy of the New Zealand bill for the registra-

tion of hospital-trained nurses. It was introduced by the government representative in the upper house (Legislative Council), the Hon. W. C. Walker, C.M.G., minister in charge of the Hospitals and Asylums Department, and has passed there. It has also passed second reading in the lower house (House of Representatives), and now only wants committal and third reading before enactment. I do not think there will be any opposition, although minor alterations may be made in committee.

"This nurses' bill has been occupying my attention for some time past. The registrar work will fall to my share, and there is much detailed organization to be thought out and prepared in addition to my usual travelling and inspection duties. You must therefore please forgive me for not having as yet sent any contribution to *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*. I enjoy it on arrival each month, and congratulate the editor most heartily upon its general appearance (I speak as an ex-journalist) and its valuable reading-matter.

"It is a common thing to hear people say, 'What has women's suffrage done for New Zealand? Women don't want it, and merely vote duplicate to their men-folk.' This is not accurate. If an attempt were made to disfranchise us, then speedily the country would feel whether women wanted it or not. The extended franchise has now been in force for three general elections, and the considerate legislation in the interests of women, more especially of women-workers, tells its own tale as to the value of a vote. Whether the women influence their men-folk before going to the polls or vice-versa does not matter much; the fact remains that it has bettered our position. At the end of the present session I hope to send you a brief summary of acts passed during the last six years that will prove this.

"I only wish I could have had the happiness of accepting the very kind invitation to Buffalo. However, it would have been useless to ask the government for another long leave of absence. I must converge my energies towards the aim of getting to Berlin in 1904. Hoping to hear that 'Nurses' Day' has been an enthusiastic success, and with warmest regards,

"I remain yours, very sincerely,

"GRACE NEILL."

